

Remarks

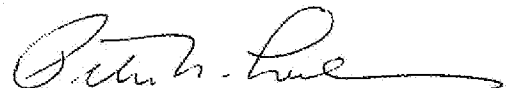
Each of the independent claims has been amended to further define the invention and distinguish the same over the various references of record taken either singularly or in combination. In particular, each of such claims has been amended to recite a longitudinally aligned engine support on the vehicle body, a transmission supported on the vehicle body disposed directly on the underside of the engine and means for transferring drive downwardly of output shaft of the engine to an input shaft of the transmission. It is submitted that none of the references of record taken either singularly or in combination discloses or teaches such structure.

It particularly is to be noted that in Matsufuji, as clearly shown in Figure 1, transmission 10 is not disposed directly on the underside of engine E and there is no means for transferring drive from an output shaft of the engine downwardly to the transmission, and in Ima, engine 3 is transversely aligned, transmission 13 is not disposed directly underneath engine 13 but to the side of it and drive transferring means 7 does not transfer drive from engine output shaft 6 to transmission 13 downwardly but laterally. Furthermore, there is no teaching in either Matsufuji or Ima to dispose the transmission directly under the engine in stacked relation, particularly for the purpose as indicated in the subject application.

In view of the foregoing, it respectfully is requested that the rejection of remaining claims 1 through 6, 10 through 16, 19, 21, 24, 26, 35, 36, and 46 through 48 be withdrawn, such claims be allowed and further that the application be passed to issue.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 14-1437, under Order No. 8375.004.US0000.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter N. Lalos

Reg. No. 19,789

Date: April 12, 2010